



STEVE COOLEY  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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March 8, 2005

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZE THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS  
FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (OES),  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMS DIVISION FOR THE  
VERTICAL PROSECUTION PROGRAM (VPP) FOR  
FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2004-05 (ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Authorize the District Attorney, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles, to accept continuing grant funds from OES for the VPP in the amount \$678,017 for the period of July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005. The VPP includes the Major Narcotics Vendors Prosecution (MNVP) and Elder Abuse Vertical Prosecution (EAVP) Programs.
2. Authorize the District Attorney to execute the Grant Award Agreement on behalf of the County of Los Angeles.
3. Authorize the District Attorney, or his designee, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles, to serve as Project Director and to sign and approve revisions to the Grant Award Agreement that do not affect the net County cost of the Agreement.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The District Attorney's Office has been awarded grant funding from OES in the amount of \$678,017 for the period July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005, for the VPP. This block grant was established in the California State Budget Act of 2003-2004 and consolidated various vertical prosecution programs. The VPP provides continuing grant funding for the Major Narcotic Vendors and Elder Abuse Vertical Prosecution programs for FY 2004-2005. The VPP will provide enhanced prosecution of Major Narcotic Vendors and Elder Abuse cases. Four specially assigned vertical prosecutors will prosecute these crimes to ensure that these cases and their vulnerable victims receive appropriate attention.

Board authorization is required to accept the grant award for this fiscal year.

**Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals:**

This program directly supports the District Attorney's core mission to vigorously prosecute felony crime throughout the County of Los Angeles. Acceptance of the grant award supports the County's Strategic Plan Goal No. 4, Fiscal Responsibility by securing an available revenue source at the State level.

**FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:**

The total estimated cost of this program for FY 2004-2005 is \$686,185. The Office of Emergency Services will fund \$678,017 to partially offset the Vertical Prosecution Program costs. The District Attorney's Office will absorb the remaining costs of \$8,168. Funding for this program has been included in the department's FY 2004-2005 budget.

If funding for this program were terminated, an evaluation would be conducted to determine whether the program would either be continued with costs being absorbed by the department, or discontinued with the reallocation of staff to vacant budgeted positions.

**FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:**

In 1984 the Legislature added the vertical prosecution of Major Narcotic Vendors to the list of priority prosecution programs and also authorized funding for the vertical prosecution of Elder Abuse. Vertical prosecution, reduced caseloads, and a staff of trained and experienced prosecutors promote more effective prosecution as well as increased conviction rates and increased victim satisfaction with the criminal justice process. In FY 2003-2004, 90 defendants were vertically prosecuted by two MNVP Deputies. This was an increase of 20% over the previous year.

In the field of Elder Abuse, DDAs assist in the training of local police and sheriff's deputies, participate in interagency Financial Abuse Specialist Teams targeting the most vulnerable elder and dependent adults, and are regularly called upon to assist in evaluating potential criminal cases by family violence advocates throughout the community. It is estimated that 150 cases will be referred to the Elder Abuse Section in FY2004-2005; however, only ten of the most difficult elder and dependent adult abuse cases will be handled by the EAVP prosecutor. Due to program staffing changes within the new state agency OES notification was received late during this FY 2004-2005 period.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS):**

This program does not propose attorney staff augmentation. Therefore, the District Attorney's Office is not subject to the Board Motion of December 15, 1998, requiring clearance with the Alternate Public Defender, Probation, Public Defender, and Sheriff's Departments.

**CONCLUSION:**

Following Board authorization to accept the grant award for this program, the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board is requested to return two (2) copies of the adopted Board Letter containing original signatures to Sheri Ramirez-Garcia, Contracts and Grants Unit, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, 201 North Figueroa Street, Suite 1300, Los Angeles, California 90012. Any questions may be directed to Ms. Ramirez-Garcia at (213) 202-7667 or via e-mail at [shramire@lacountyda.org](mailto:shramire@lacountyda.org).

Very truly yours,



STEVE COOLEY  
District Attorney

srg:mmb

Enclosure

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel

**Los Angeles County Chief Administrative Office**  
**Grant Management Statement for Grants Exceeding \$100,000**

**Department:** Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

**Grant Project Title and Description**

The Vertical Prosecution Program (VPP) block grant was established in the California State Budget Act of FY 2004-05, which consolidates vertical prosecution programs to support intensified efforts by District Attorneys' Offices statewide to prosecute Major Narcotic Vendors, and Elder Abuse. The VPP will seek justice through the enhanced prosecution to stem the epidemic of serious crime in Los Angeles county through multi-agency efforts that include cooperation with law enforcement, vigorous prosecution and victim assistance. The law requires that cases screened into the VPP program and prosecuted must be felonies as described in specific sections of the Penal Code. The specially assigned vertical prosecutors will enhance the prosecution of these crimes and ensure that the serious cases and their victims receive maximum attention and effort, in order to protect the community.

**Funding Agency**  
Office of Emergency Services

**Program (Fed. Grant # /State Bill or Code #)**  
VB04020190

**Grant Acceptance Deadline**

**Total Amount of Grant Funding:** \$678,017

**County Match:** \$0

**Grant Period:** 2004-2005

**Begin Date:** July 1, 2004

**End Date:** June 30, 2005

**Number of Personnel Hired Under This Grant:** Full Time: MNVP 3; EAVP 1 Part Time: 0

**Obligations Imposed on the County When the Grant Expires**

Will all personnel hired for this program be informed this is a grant-funded program? Yes ☒ No ☐

Will all personnel hired for this program be placed on temporary ("N") items? Yes ☒ No ☐

Is the County obligated to continue this program after the grant expires? Yes ☐ No ☒

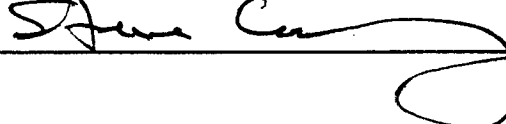
If the County is not obligated to continue this program after the grant expires, the Department will:

a). Absorb the program cost without reducing other services Yes ☐ No ☒

b). Identify other revenue sources Yes ☐ No ☒  
(Describe) \_\_\_\_\_

c). Eliminate or reduce, as appropriate, positions/program costs funded by the grant. Yes ☒ No ☐

**Impact of additional personnel on existing space:** None.

**Department Head Signature** 

**Date** 2/22/05